AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Thermal spray powder~~The process as in claim ~~1~~6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said boride is present between 5% and 40% in weight.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Thermal spray powder~~The process as in claim 2, ~~in which~~ wherein the weight percentage of said boride is between 10 and 25.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Thermal spray powder according to~~The process as in claim ~~1~~6, ~~characterised in that it~~ wherein the powder is in the form of spherical particles with diameter between 10 and 150 μm.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Thermal spray powder~~The process as in claim 4, wherein the powder is in the form of spherical particles with diameter between 20 and 80 μm.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~P~~process for preparation of ~~the~~a thermal spray powder ~~as in claim 1, characterised in that a SiC powder and powders of at least one boride chosen from Zr, Ti and/or Hf borides are mixed and~~ based on silicon carbide and comprising at least one boride selected from the group consisting of zirconium boride, titanium boride, and hafnium boride, the process comprising mixing and aggregating silicon carbide powder and powder of the at least one boride.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~P~~process ~~for preparation of the thermal spray powder~~ as in claim 6, ~~in which the SiC and ZrB_2, TiB_2 and or HfB_2 powders are mixed and aggregated by means of the spray dryer technique, followed by sintering if necessary~~comprising mixing said powders and spray

drying to form an aggregate.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Method for the preparation of~~The process as in claim 6, further comprising forming a composite material with a metallic or non-metallic substrate and ~~SiC~~a silicon carbide-based coating~~, characterised in that a~~ by depositing the thermal spray powder ~~according to claim 1 is deposited~~ on said substrate by ~~means of the~~ plasma spraying ~~technique~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~C~~composite material~~, characterised in that it is~~ prepared by ~~means of~~ the ~~method~~ process as in claim 8.

10. (Currently Amended) The process as in claim 8, further comprising removing said substrate by machining or chemical etching to form a ~~M~~material with high resistance to wear, corrosion, erosion and high temperature ~~characterised in that it is prepared from the composite material of claim 9 by removal of said substrate by machining or chemical etching~~.